

No.

200100079



THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME:

Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.

Whereas, THERE HAS BEEN PRESENTED TO THE

Secretary of Agriculture

AN APPLICATION REQUESTING A CERTIFICATE OF PROTECTION FOR AN ALLEGED DISTINCT VARIETY OF SEXUALLY REPRODUCED, OR TUBER PROPAGATED PLANT, THE NAME AND DESCRIPTION OF WHICH ARE CONTAINED IN THE APPLICATION AND EXHIBITS, A COPY OF WHICH IS HEREUNTO ANNEXED AND MADE A PART HEREOF, AND THE VARIOUS REQUIREMENTS OF LAW IN SUCH CASES MADE AND PROVIDED HAVE BEEN COMPLIED WITH, AND THE TITLE THERETO IS FROM THE RECORDS OF THE PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION OFFICE, IN THE APPLICANT(S) INDICATED IN THE SAID COPY, AND WHEREAS, UPON DUE EXAMINATION MADE, THE SAID APPLICANT(S) IS (ARE) ADJUDGED TO BE ENTITLED TO A CERTIFICATE OF PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION UNDER THE LAW.

NOW, THEREFORE, THIS CERTIFICATE OF PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION IS TO GRANT UNTO THE SAID APPLICANT(S) AND THE SUCCESSORS, HEIRS OR ASSIGNS OF THE SAID APPLICANT(S) FOR THE TERM OF TWENTY YEARS FROM THE DATE OF THIS GRANT, SUBJECT TO THE PAYMENT OF THE REQUIRED FEES AND PERIODIC REPLENISHMENT OF VIABLE BASIC SEED OF THE VARIETY IN A PUBLIC REPOSITORY AS PROVIDED BY LAW, THE RIGHT TO EXCLUDE OTHERS FROM SELLING THE VARIETY, OR OFFERING IT FOR SALE, OR REPRODUCING IT, OR IMPORTING IT, OR EXPORTING IT, OR CONDITIONING IT FOR PROPAGATION, OR STOCKING IT FOR ANY OF THE FOREGOING PURPOSE, OR USING IT IN PRODUCING A HYBRID OR DIFFERENT VARIETY THEREFROM, TO THE EXTENT PROVIDED BY THE PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION ACT. (84 STAT. 1542, AS AMENDED, 7 U.S.C. 2321 ET SEQ.)

SOYBEAN

'95B97'

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the Plant Variety Protection Office to be affixed at the City of Washington, D.C. this eighth day of May, in the year of our Lord two thousand one.



Attest:

Alank. Post

Acting Commissioner
Plant Variety Protection Office
Agricultural Marketing Service

Wm. H. H. H.

Secretary of Agriculture

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY - PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION OFFICE

APPLICATION FOR PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION CERTIFICATE
(Instructions and information collection burden statement on reverse)

The following statements are made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) and the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995.

Application is required in order to determine if a plant variety protection certificate is to be issued (7 U.S.C. 2421). Information is held confidential until certificate is issued (7 U.S.C. 2426).

1. NAME OF OWNER Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.		2. TEMPORARY DESIGNATION OR EXPERIMENTAL NAME		2. VARIETY NAME 95B97	
4. ADDRESS (Street and No., or R.F.D. No., City, State, and ZIP Code, and Country) 7300 N. W. 62 nd Avenue P. O. Box 1004 Johnston, IA 50131		5. TELEPHONE (include area code) 515-254-2638		FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY	
				PVPO NUMBER	
		6. FAX (include area code) 2 515-253-2288		FILING DATE January 25, 2001	
7. IF THE OWNER NAMED IS NOT A "PERSON", GIVE FORM OF ORGANIZATION (corporation, partnership, association, etc.) Corporation		8. IF INCORPORATED, GIVE STATE OF INCORPORATION Iowa		9. DATE OF INCORPORATION May 6, 1926	
10. NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER REPRESENTATIVE(S) TO SERVE IN THIS APPLICATION. (First person listed will receive all papers) Daria Schmidt, Ph.D. 7300 NW 62 nd Ave. P.O. Box 1004 Johnston, Iowa 50131-1004 Jean Bromert (copy) 7100 NW 62 nd Ave. P. O. Box 1000 Johnston, Iowa 50131-1000				FILING AND EXAMINATION FEES: \$ 2705 DATE Jan. 25, 01	
				CERTIFICATION FEE: \$ 320.00 DATE 5/2/01	
11. TELEPHONE (include area code) 515-254-2638		12. FAX (include area code) 515-253-2288		13. E-MAIL schmidttdh@phibred.com	
				14. CROP KIND (Common Name) Soybean	
18. CHECK APPROPRIATE BOX FOR EACH ATTACHMENT SUBMITTED (Follow instructions on reverse) a. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exhibit A. Origin and Breeding History of the Variety b. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exhibit B. Statement of Distinctness c. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exhibit C. Objective Description of Variety d. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exhibit D. Additional Description of the Variety (Optional) e. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Exhibit E. Statement of the Basis of the Owner's Ownership f. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Voucher Sample (2,500 viable untreated seeds or, for tuber propagated varieties, verification that tissue culture will be deposited and maintained in an approved public repository) g. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Filing and Examination Fee (\$2,705), made payable to "Treasurer of the United States" (Mail to the Plant Variety Protection Office)			19. DOES THE OWNER SPECIFY THAT SEED OF THIS VARIETY BE SOLD AS A CLASS OF CERTIFIED SEED? See Section 83(a) of the Plant Variety Protection Act <input type="checkbox"/> YES (If "yes", answer items 20 and 21 below) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO (If "no," go to item 22)		
			20. DOES THE OWNER SPECIFY THAT SEED OF THIS VARIETY BE LIMITED AS TO NUMBER OF CLASSES? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO IF YES, WHICH CLASSES? <input type="checkbox"/> FOUNDATION <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTERED <input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFIED		
22. HAS THE VARIETY (INCLUDING ANY HARVESTED MATERIAL) OR A HYBRID PRODUCED FROM THIS VARIETY BEEN SOLD, DISPOSED OF, TRANSFERRED, OR USED IN THE U. S. OR OTHER COUNTRIES? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO IF YES, YOU MUST PROVIDE THE DATE OF FIRST SALE, DISPOSITION, TRANSFER, OR USE FOR EACH COUNTRY AND THE CIRCUMSTANCES. (Please use space indicated on reverse.)			21. DOES THE OWNER SPECIFY THAT THE CLASSES BE LIMITED AS TO NUMBER OF GENERATIONS? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO IF YES, SPECIFY THE NUMBER 1, 2, 3, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> FOUNDATION <input type="checkbox"/> REGISTERED <input type="checkbox"/> CERTIFIED (If additional explanation is necessary, please use the space indicated on the reverse.)		
			23. IS THE VARIETY OR ANY COMPONENT OF THE VARIETY PROTECTED BY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHT (PLANT BREEDER'S RIGHT OR PATENT)? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO IF YES, GIVE COUNTRY, DATE OF FILING OR ISSUANCE AND ASSIGNED REFERENCE NUMBER. (Please use space indicated on reverse.)		
24. The owners declare that a viable sample of basic seed of the variety will be furnished with application and will be replenished upon request in accordance with such regulations as may be applicable, or for a tuber propagated variety a tissue culture will be deposited in a public repository and maintained for the duration of the certificate. The undersigned owner(s) is(are) the owner of this sexually reproduced or tuber propagated plant variety, and believe(s) that the variety is new, distinct, uniform, and stable as required in Section 42, and is entitled to protection under the provisions of Section 42 of the Plant Variety Protection Act. Owner(s) is(are) informed that false representation herein can jeopardize protection and result in penalties.					
SIGNATURE OF OWNER Daria H. Schmidt			SIGNATURE OF OWNER		
NAME (Please print or type) Daria H. Schmidt			NAME (Please print or type)		
CAPACITY OR TITLE Director, Associative Genetics/Technology Integration		DATE 1/22/01		CAPACITY OR TITLE	
				DATE	

Exhibit A. Origin and Breeding History of the Variety**Soybean Variety 95B97**

Variety 95B97 evolved from a 1992 cross of A5979/S5960.

It is an F5-derived variety, which was advanced to the F5 generation by modified single seed descent. The F6 progeny row of 95B97 was grown in the summer of 1995. Subsequently, 95B97 has undergone five years of extensive testing and purification and has been observed by the breeder to be uniform and stable for all plant traits from generation to generation, with no evidence of variants. On the basis of yield potential, and resistance to races 3 and 14 of soybean cyst nematode, variety 95B97 was assigned a commercial number.

The purification block was grown during the summer of 1998 and 80 sublines were bulked for increase. 2.6 acres of 95B97 (breeders seed) were grown in the summer of 1999. 108 acres of parent seedstock (foundation seed equivalent) were grown in the summer of 2000 and 4,635 bushels harvested.

Exhibit B. Statement of Distinctness**Soybean Variety 95B97**

Variety 95B97 is most similar to Variety 95B95. Both varieties have purple flowers, gray pubescence, and yellow seeds with imperfect black hila. However, 95B97 has resistance to race 3 and 14 of Soybean Cyst Nematode and is susceptible to Roundup branded herbicides whereas 95B95 is susceptible to race 3 and 14 of Soybean Cyst Nematode and is resistant to Roundup branded herbicides.

Variety 95B97 is also similar to Variety 96B21. Both varieties have purple flowers, gray pubescence, and yellow seeds with imperfect black hila. However, 95B97 has resistance to race 3 and 14 of Soybean Cyst Nematode and is susceptible to Roundup branded herbicides whereas 96B21 is susceptible to race 3 and 14 of Soybean Cyst Nematode and is resistant to Roundup branded herbicides.

Variety 95B97 is also similar to A5704 from Asgrow Seeds. Both varieties have purple flowers, gray pubescence, and yellow seeds with imperfect black hila. However, 95B97 does not have the Als1 gene for tolerance to certain sulfonylurea herbicides whereas A5704 does have the Als1 gene for tolerance to certain sulfonylurea herbicides.

Variety 95B97 is somewhat similar to Variety S59-60 from Novartis Seeds. Both varieties have purple flowers and are has resistance to race 3 and 14 of Soybean Cyst Nematode. However, 95B97 has gray pubescence and yellow seeds with imperfect black hila whereas S59-60 has tawny pubescence and yellow seeds with black hila.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, an agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this collection of information is (0581-0055). The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 30 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact the USDA's TARGET Center at 202-720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 14th and Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
PLANT VARIETY PROTECTION OFFICE
BELTSVILLE, MD 20705

EXHIBIT C
(Soybean)

OBJECTIVE DESCRIPTION OF VARIETY
SOYBEAN (*Glycine max* (L.) Merr.)

NAME OF APPLICANT(S) Pioneer Hi-Bred International	FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY
ADDRESS (Street and No. or R.F.D. No., City, State, and ZIP Code) 7300 62nd Avenue P.O. Box 1004 Johnston, IA 50131-1004	PPVO NUMBER 200100070
	VARIETY NAME 95B97
	TEMPORARY OR EXPERIMENTAL DESIGNATION

PLEASE READ ALL INSTRUCTIONS CAREFULLY: Place the appropriate number that describes the varietal character of this variety in the boxes below.

Place a zero in the first box (e.g.

9	9	9
---	---	---

 or

0	9
---	---

) when number is either 99 or less or 9 or less respectively. Data for quantitative

plant characters should be based on a minimum of 100 plants. Comparative data should be determined from varieties entered in the same trial. Royal Horticultural Society or any recognized color standard may be used to determine plant colors; designate system used:

Please answer all questions for your variety; lack of response may delay progress of your application.

A. MORPHOLOGY

Seed Shape:

<table border="1"><tr><td>2</td></tr></table>	2	1 = Spherical (L/W, L/T, and T/W ratios < 1.2)	2 = Spherical-Flattened (L/W ratio > 1.2; L/T ratio < 1.2)
2			
	3 = Elongate (L/T ratio > 1.2; T/W ratio < 1.2)	4 = Elongate-Flattened (L/T ratio > 1.2; T/W ratio > 1.2)	

Seed Coat Color:

<table border="1"><tr><td>1</td></tr></table>	1	1 = Yellow	2 = Green	3 = Brown	4 = Black	5 = Other (Please Specify) _____
1						

Seed Coat Luster:

<table border="1"><tr><td>1</td></tr></table>	1	1 = Dull	2 = Shiny
1			

Seed Size:

<table border="1"><tr><td>1</td><td>2</td></tr></table>	1	2	grams/100 seeds
1	2		

Hilum Color:

<table border="1"><tr><td>5</td></tr></table>	5	1 = Buff 6 = Black	2 = Yellow 7 = Other (Please Specify) _____	3 = Brown	4 = Gray	5 = Imperfect Black
5						

A. MORPHOLOGY (Continued)

200100070

Cotyledon Color:

☐ 1 = Yellow 2 = Green

Seed Protein Peroxidase Activity:

☐ 1 = Low 2 = High

Hypocotyl Color:

☐ 1 = Green 2 = Green with Bronze 3 = Light Purple 4 = Dark Purple extending to
('Evans' or 'Davis') Bands below Cotyledons below Cotyledons unifoliolate leaves ('Hodgson',
('Woodworth' or 'Tracy') ('Beeson' or 'Pickett 71') 'Coker', or 'Hampton 266A')

Leaflet Shape:

☐ 1 = Lanceolate 2 = Oval 3 = Ovate 4 = Other (Please Specify) _____

Flower Color:

☐ 1 = White 2 = Purple 3 = White with a Purple Throat

Pod Color:

☐ 1 = Tan 2 = Brown 3 = Black

Pubescence Color:

☐ 1 = Gray 2 = Brown (Tawny) 3 = Light Tawny

Plant Habit:

☐ 1 = Determinate 2 = Semi - Determinate 3 = Indeterminate 4 = Intermediate

Maturity Group:

<input type="checkbox"/> 0	<input type="checkbox"/> 8	1 = 000	2 = 00	3 = 0	4 = I	5 = II
		6 = III	7 = IV	8 = V	9 = VI	10 = VII
		11 = VIII	12 = IX	13 = X	14 = XI	15 = XII

Maturity Subgroup:

☐ 9 Please enter a value from 0 - 9

B. DISEASE REACTIONS

0 = Not Tested 1 = Susceptible 2 = Resistant 3 = Tolerant

Bacterial

☐ 0 Bacterial Pustule (*Xanthomonas campestris* pv. *glycines* (Nakano) Dye)

☐ 1 Bacterial Blight (*Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *glycinea* (Coerper) Young, Dye, & Wilkie)

☐ 0 Wildfire Blight (*Pseudomonas syringae* pv. *tabaci* (Wolf & Foster) Young, Dye, & Wilkie)

B. DISEASE REACTIONS (Continued)

0 = Not Tested

1 = Susceptible

2 = Resistant

3 = Tolerant

Fungal

Brown Spot (*Septoria glycines* Hemmi)

Frogeye Leaf Spot (*Cercospora sojina* Hara)

race 1

race 2

race 6

race 3

race 4

Other (Please Specify) _____

Target Spot (*Corynespora cassicola* (Berk. & Curt.) Wei)

Downey Mildew (*Peronospora trifoliorum* var. *manchurica* (Naum.) Syd. ex Gäum)

Powdery Mildew (*Microsphaera diffusa* Cke. & Pk.)

Brown Stem Rot (*Phialophora gregata* (Allington & Chamberlain) W. Gams.)

Stem Canker (*Diaporthe phaseolorum* (Cke. & Ell.) Sacc. var. *caulivora* Athow & Caldwell)

Pod and Stem Blight (*Diaporthe phaseolorum* (Cke. & Ell.) Sacc. var. *sojae* (Lehman) Wehm.)

Purple Seed Stain (*Cercospora kikuchii* (T. Matsu. & Tomoyasu) Gardener)

Rhizoctonia Root Rot (*Rhizoctonia solani* Kühn)

Phytophthora Root Rot (*Phytophthora megasperma* Drechs. f. sp. *glycinea* (Kuan & Erwin))

race 1
race 2
race 3
race 4
race 5
race 6
race 7

race 8
race 9
race 10
race 11
race 12
race 13
race 14

race 15
race 16
race 17
race 18
race 19
race 20
race 21

race 22
race 23
race 24
race 25
race 26

Other (Please Specify) _____

Bud Blight (Tobacco Ringspot Virus)

Yellow Mosaic (Bean Yellow Mosaic Virus)

Cowpea Mosaic (Cowpea Chlorotic Virus)

Pod Mottle (Bean Pod Mottle Virus)

Seed Mottle (Soybean Mosaic Virus)

Nematode

Soybean Cyst Nematode (*Heterodera glycines* Ichinohe)

race 1

race 4

race 9

race 2

race 5

race 14

race 3

race 6

Other (Please Specify) _____

Lance Nematode (*Hoplolaimus columbus* Sher)

Southern Root Knot Nematode (*Meloidogyne incognita* (Kofoid & White) Chitwood)

Northern Root Knot Nematode (*Meloidogyne hapla* Chitwood)

Peanut Root Knot Nematode (*Meloidogyne arenaria* (Neal) Chitwood)

Reniform Nematode (*Rotylenchus reniformis* Linwood & Olivera)

Javanese Nematode (*Meloidogyne javanica* (Treub) Chitwood)

Other Nematode (Please Specify) _____

C. PHYSIOLOGICAL RESPONSES 0 = Not Tested 1 = Susceptible 2 = Resistant 3 = Tolerant

Iron Chlorosis on Calcareous Soil

Phosphorus

Other (Please Specify) _____

Boron

Aluminum

Salt

Drought

D. INSECT REACTIONS

0 = Not Tested

1 = Susceptible

2 = Resistant

3 = Tolerant

Mexican Bean Beetle (*Epilachna varivestis* Mulsant)Potato Leaf Hopper (*Empoasca fabae* (Harris))

Other (Please Specify) _____

E. HERBICIDE REACTIONS

0 = Not Tested

1 = Susceptible

2 = Resistant

Metribuzin

Bentazone

Sulfonylurea

Glyphosate

Glufosinate

Pendimethalin

Other (Please Specify) _____

F. TRANSGENIC COMPOSITION

Has the development of the subject variety included the insertion of genetic material from an organism other than a soybean, or, the removal of genetic material from the application variety?

If yes, please complete the following information requests*. Use additional pages if necessary.

☐

YES

☒

NO

1. Please state the vector's name:

2. Please state the vector components:

3. Please describe the genetic material successfully transferred into the subject variety:

4. Please describe the insertion protocol:

*A literature citation(s) explaining the four information requests above may be an acceptable alternative to completion of the "Transgenic Composition" portion of this form.

G. BIOCHEMICAL MARKERS

Please describe any biochemical information here, which you believe will be helpful in further describing the subject variety (e.g. Simple Sequence Repeats, Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphisms, Isozymic Characterization). Use additional pages if necessary.

H. COMMENTS

Exhibit D. Additional Description of the Variety

Soybean Variety 95B97

In Exhibit C we have identified variety 95B97 as susceptible to bacterial blight, brown spot, pod and stem blight, rhizoctonia root rot, bud blight, yellow mosaic, cowpea mosaic, pod mottle and seed mottle.

This does not mean that variety 95B97 is any worse for these problems than other varieties of similar maturity. Rather, we do not consider 95B97 to be immune to these problems. Therefore, we have chosen to be conservative and have identified the line as "susceptible".

Variety 95B97 is a late Group V variety. If Group V varieties are divided into tenths, the relative maturity of 95B97 is 5.9.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

The following statements are made in accordance with the Privacy Act of 1974 (5 U.S.C. 552a) and the Paper Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995.

EXHIBIT E
STATEMENT OF THE BASIS OF OWNERSHIP

Application is required in order to determine if a plant variety protection certificate is to be issued (7 U.S.C. 2421). The information is held confidential until the certificate is issued (7 U.S.C. 2426).

1. NAME OF APPLICANT(S) Pioneer Hi-Bred International, Inc.	2. TEMPORARY DESIGNATION OR EXPERIMENTAL NUMBER	2. VARIETY NAME 95B97
4. ADDRESS (Street and No., or R.F.D. No., City, State, and ZIP, and Country) 7300 NW 62 nd Avenue P. O. Box 1004 Johnston, IA 50131-1004	5. TELEPHONE (Include area code) 515-254-2638	6. FAX (Include area code) 515-253-2288
7. PVPO NUMBER 200100070		

8. Does the applicant own all rights to the variety? Mark an "X" in the appropriate block.
If no, please explain.☒ YES ☐ NO9. Is the applicant (individual or company) a U.S. National or a U.S. based company?
If no, give name of country☒ YES ☐ NO

10. Is the applicant the original owner?

☒ YES ☐ NO

If no, please answer one of the following:

a. If the original rights to variety were owned by individual(s), is (are) the original owner(s) a U.S. National(s)?

☐ YES ☐ NO

If no, give name of country

b. If the original rights to variety were owned by a company(ies), is (are) the original owner(s) a U.S. based company?

☐ YES ☐ NO

If no, give name of country

11. Additional explanation on ownership (If needed, use the reverse for extra space):

Please Note:

Plant variety protection can only be afforded to the owners (not licensees) who meet the following criteria:

1. If the rights to the variety are owned by the original breeder, that person must be a U.S. national, national of a UPOV member country, or national of a country which affords similar protection to nationals of the U.S. for the same genus and species.
2. If the rights to the variety are owned by the company which employed the original breeder(s), the company must be U.S. based, owned by nationals of a UPOV member country, or owned by nationals of a country which affords similar protection to nationals of the U.S. for the same genus and species.
3. If the applicant is an owner who is not the original owner, both the original owner and the applicant must meet one of the above criteria.

The original breeder/owner may be the individual or company who directed the final breeding. See Section 41(a)(2) of the Plant Variety Protection Act for definitions.

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 0581-0055. The time required to complete this information collection is estimated to average 6 minutes per response, including the time for reviewing the instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information.

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To file a complaint, write the Secretary of Agriculture, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250, or call 1-800-245-6340 (voice) or (202) 720-1127 (TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity employer.

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